

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
December 8, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

We write to express our support to include a deadline extension of ideally one year for State, local, Territorial, and Tribal governments to spend their Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) monies in any year-end legislative package.

As you are aware, COVID-19 has placed significant demands on communities, health care providers, schools, businesses, and other institutions. The CARES Act established the \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund to be used to make payments for specified uses to states and local governments to cover certain costs, including: necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19; expenditures not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020, for the state or government; and costs incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020.

However, according to an August 2020 report published by the Department of the Treasury Office of the Inspector General, less than 25% of the federal CARES Act resources allocated to state and local governments have been spent. Specifically, only \$34 billion out of the \$139 billion distributed through the Coronavirus Relief Fund has been expended.

As we continue to address challenges associated with COVID-19, it has become clear that additional flexibility will be required to ensure that CARES Act funding is appropriately utilized in a manner consistent with the intent of the law. The current deadline for State, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to utilize the CRF restricts many of these governments from continuing to be responsive to COVID-19 and furthering the purpose for which Congress created the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

Two pieces of legislation have been introduced to address these concerns. H.R. 7854, the *LOCAL Act*, will extend the costs incurred deadline for states and local governments to use their Coronavirus Relief Funds by one year. Furthermore, H.R. 7631, *Coronavirus Relief Fund Local Government Flexibility Act*, extends the same deadline by three months.

Therefore, we respectfully request that any year-end legislation includes language to extend the Coronavirus Relief Fund incurred cost deadline by ideally one year. We stand ready to work with your offices as this package develops and look forward to a timely resolution.

Thank you, stay well, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Glenn "GT" Thompson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Madeleine Dean
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Vicky Hartzler
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Brian Fitzpatrick
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Lisa Blunt Rochester
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



A. Donald McEachin
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Susan Wild
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